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Medical Officer of Health,

R. S. McELROY,

W. A. M. B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.T.M.

REPORT

Senior Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1955.

RURAL DISTRICT of TAMWORTH

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health,

R. S. McELROY,

M.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.T.M.

and the

R E P O R T

of the

Senior Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1955.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE TAMWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the state of the public health of the District, together with that of the Public Health Inspector, for the year 1955. In so doing I have omitted any special reference to the services provided by the County Health Department, details of which will be found in the Report of the County Medical Officer of Health for the year under review.

I am sure that you would first wish me to refer to the departure of my predecessor, Dr. G. W. Knight. He was appointed Deputy County Medical Officer of Health for Buckinghamshire in October and actually left to take up his post there early in January of this year. I know that he has already distinguished himself in the field of Public Health and am sure that the Council will have been sorry to lose such an able officer.

As would be expected, an all-round increase in the work of the Health Department took place and there is little doubt that the standard of living and the physical and mental health of the community further improved. In fact, the increasing value of the benefits available under the National Health Service Act, 1948; the National Assistance Act, 1948; and other relative legislation is reflected in the demand, not only for treatment, but also for prevention of disease and the removal of other factors adversely affecting the well-being of the community.

Compared with the preceding year when the number of cases of notifiable infectious disease recorded reached the lowest level for the previous eight years, the year in question was marked by an epidemic of measles and a small outbreak of poliomyelitis which are discussed elsewhere.

As usual, the Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector summarises a large volume of work in a very small compass. In particular, I refer to the great progress made with the Northern Area and Kingsbury Deep Sewerage Scheme.

The Report on Low Standard Houses completed the survey of unfit dwellings requested by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in his Circular 30/54 of 22nd March, 1954, and also under the Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954, whereby standards of fitness for human habitation were laid down. This comprehensive document forms the basis for much needed action regarding closing or demolition of unsuitable properties in order of priority. On the other hand, it is more

gratifying to note the erection of 240 new houses including 182 by this Council and 58 by private enterprise. Nevertheless, with 456 applicants for housing listed at the close of the year, compared with 469 at the end of 1954, the magnitude of the task ahead needs no emphasis.

The lack of apparatus for the measurement of atmospheric pollution, especially in the vicinity of the industrial areas, militated against assessment of this most important aspect of public health work.

Water supplies throughout the District were ample and wholesome and it is noteworthy that, on an average, 98.7 per cent. of domestic dwellings have a mains supply, with Newton Regis Parish 100 per cent.

During the year the District became a Designated Area whereby only designated milk can be retailed therein—this is a great advance.

Inspection of meat at the three slaughterhouses licensed was made on 100 per cent. basis and, in only two instances, were whole carcasses condemned as unfit for human consumption.

The information regarding housing, sewerage and refuse collection has been kindly provided by Mr. Shaw, your Engineer and Surveyor, to whom I am very grateful.

In conclusion, I would like to record my appreciation of your encouragement and support and express my thanks for the whole-hearted co-operation and assistance from the staff and also from the other departments of the Council.

R. S. McELROY,

Medical Officer of Health.

Park Road,
Coleshill.

October, 1956.

**TAMWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,
1955.**

Chairman of the Council
ARTHUR THORPE.

Vice-Chairman of the Council
GEORGE HENRY PHILLIPS.

Clerk of the Council
S. W. DEWES.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

All the Members of the Council.

Chairman: R. MARRIOTT.

HOUSING COMMITTEE

All the Members of the Council.

Chairman: A. V. ALLBRIGHTON.

**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF AS AT
31st DECEMBER, 1955.**

Medical Officer of Health

G. W. KNIGHT, M.D., D.P.H.

(also Medical Officer of Health, Meriden Rural District Council, and Area Medical Officer, North Western Area, Warwickshire County Council.)

Senior Sanitary Inspector

G. J. WATTS, M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H., Cert. Meat and Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector

D. S. FRY, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat and Foods.

Rodent Operator

C. HINDS.

Chief Clerk

J. D. MYNARD.

Council Offices

92, Lichfield Street,
TAMWORTH,
Staffs.

Tel.: Tamworth 695-6.

Office of Medical Officer of Health

Area Health Office,
Park Road, Coleshill,
Nr. Birmingham.

Tel.: Coleshill 2331-2.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Area in Acres | ... | ... | ... | 22,032 |
| Population (Registrar General's estimate, Mid-1955) | ... | ... | ... | 16,840 |
| „ (1951 Census) | ... | ... | ... | 16,118 |
| „ (1931 „) | ... | ... | ... | 14,151 |
| Number of inhabited premises (Mar. 1955)— | | | | |
| Houses | ... | ... | ... | 5,101 |
| Shops | ... | ... | ... | 114 |
| Public Houses | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Rateable Value (31st March, 1955) | ... | ... | ... | £72,925 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | ... | ... | ... | £286 |

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.

LIVE BIRTHS

Legitimate

Illegitimate

Totals

| Males | Females | Total |
|-------|---------|-------|
| 153 | 113 | 266 |
| 3 | 3 | 6 |
| 156 | 116 | 272 |

Birth Rate, 1955: 16.0 per 1,000 population.

| | 1955 | 1954 | 1953 | 1952 | 1951 | 1950 | 1949 | 1948 | 1947 |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Birth Rate | 16.0 | 16.5 | 17.0 | 16.6 | 16.6 | 16.6 | 17.3 | 19.6 | 21.2 |

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate

Illegitimate

Totals

| Males | Females | Total |
|-------|---------|-------|
| 3 | 4 | 7 |
| — | — | — |
| 3 | 4 | 7 |

Still Birth Rate, 1955: 25.1 per 1,000 total births.

| | 1955 | 1954 | 1953 | 1952 | 1951 | 1950 | 1949 | 1948 | 1947 |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Still Birth Rate | 25.1 | 14.5 | 34.8 | 14.8 | 22.5 | 15.0 | 21.6 | 26.5 | 34.5 |

DEATHS.

| | Males | Females | Total |
|------------|-------|---------|-------|
| All causes | 78 | 69 | 147 |

Crude Death Rate, 1955: 8.7 per 1,000 population.

| | 1955 | 1954 | 1953 | 1952 | 1951 | 1950 | 1949 | 1948 | 1947 |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Crude Death Rate | 8.7 | 8.4 | 7.5 | 10.0 | 11.9 | 10.4 | 9.2 | 9.9 | 10.2 |

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

| | Males | Females | Total |
|--------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Legitimate | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| Illegitimate | — | — | — |
| Totals | 6 | 3 | 9 |

Infant Mortality Rate, 1955: 33.08 per 1,000 live births.

| | 1955 | 1954 | 1953 | 1952 | 1951 | 1950 | 1949 | 1948 | 1947 |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Infant Death Rate | 33.1 | 22.1 | 25.3 | 37.5 | 45.0 | 23.0 | 11.0 | 20.0 | 29.8 |

Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age.

| | Males | Females | Total |
|--------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Legitimate | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Illegitimate | — | — | — |
| Totals | 4 | 2 | 6 |

Neo-natal Mortality Rate, 1955: 22.1 per 1,000 live births
(Compared with 14.4 per 1,000 live births in 1953 and 14.7 per
1,000 live births in 1954.)

Maternal Deaths: Nil.

| | Males | Females | Total |
|----------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Deaths due to Malignant Disease: | | | |
| All causes | 13 | 12 | 25 |

Cancer Death Rate: 1.5 per 1,000 population.

Classified Causes of Death.

| | Males | Females | Total |
|---|-------|---------|-------|
| 1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 2. Tuberculosis, other ... | — | — | — |
| 3. Syphilitic disease ... | — | — | — |
| 4. Diphtheria ... | — | — | — |
| 5. Whooping Cough ... | — | — | — |
| 6. Meningococcal Infections ... | — | — | — |
| 7. Acute Poliomyelitis ... | — | — | — |
| 8. Measles ... | — | — | — |
| 9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ... | — | — | — |
| 10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 12. Malignant neoplasm, breast | — | 3 | 3 |
| 13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus | — | — | — |
| 14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... | 7 | 6 | 13 |
| 15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia ... | — | — | — |
| 16. Diabetes ... | — | — | — |
| 17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ... | 8 | 12 | 20 |
| 18. Coronary disease, angina ... | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| 19. Hypertension with heart disease ... | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 20. Other heart disease ... | 11 | 14 | 25 |
| 21. Other circulatory disease ... | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| 22. Influenza ... | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 23. Pneumonia ... | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| 24. Bronchitis ... | 3 | — | 3 |
| 25. Other diseases of respiratory system ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| 26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... | 2 | — | 2 |
| 27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa ... | — | — | — |
| 28. Nephritis and nephrosis ... | — | — | — |
| 29. Hyperplasia of prostate ... | — | — | — |
| 30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... | — | — | — |
| 31. Congenital malformations ... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... | 10 | 9 | 19 |
| 33. Motor vehicle accidents ... | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 34. All other accidents ... | — | — | — |
| 35. Suicide ... | 3 | — | 3 |
| 36. Homicide and operations of war ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| 37. All causes ... | 78 | 69 | 147 |

General Comment

POPULATION

The mid-year figure of 16,840 for the population shows an increase of 380 over the 1954 estimate.

BIRTHS

At 16.0 per 1,000 population the Birth Rate further declined slightly compared with the two previous years. Nevertheless, the past seven years have seen no marked fluctuations and the standardised rate of 16.16 for the District compares favourably with that of 15.0 for England and Wales. (The standardised rate is obtained by using the particular comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General for each registration area with a view to making due allowance for the differences in age and sex distribution of the population of the various zones throughout England and Wales. By this means, standardised birth (and death) rates are obtainable which are more comparable and accurate than the crude death rates.)

DEATHS

The maternal mortality rate was nil, and has remained at this satisfactory level since 1949.

There were 78 male and 69 female deaths, a total of 147 during the year. This gives a corrected standardised death rate of 9.48 per 1,000 population which is lower than the comparative figure of 11.7 for England and Wales. The chief causes of death were heart disease, cancer and lesions of the blood vessels of the nervous system such as cerebral apoplexy in that order.

Deaths from cancer were 25 compared with 27 for the previous year, and include 3 cases of lung disease of which one was a female whereas three male deaths were recorded for 1954. Mortality from coronary disease of the heart (angina) was 13 with 8 males and 5 females, which are exactly the same figures as last year. Fatal motor vehicle accidents rose from 1 to 4 in keeping with the distressing countrywide increase. Likewise, suicides trebled from 1 to 3 incidents.

SECTION B.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Total number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1955.
(Giving age groups, deaths and admissions to hospital).

| NOTIFIABLE DISEASE | Number of Cases notified | | | | | | | | Total cases re- moved to hospital | Total deaths |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| | At all ages | At Ages—years | | | | | | | | |
| | | Under 1 | 1-5 | 5-15 | 15-25 | 25-45 | 45-65 | 65 and upwards | | |
| Measles | 410 | 8 | 192 | 208 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Whooping Cough | 8 | — | 5 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pneumonia | 12 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| Scarlet Fever | 8 | — | 2 | 6 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Erysipelas | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Acute-Polio- myelitis Paralytic | 2 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 8 | — | — | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 2 |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis | 2 | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Food Poisoning | 2 | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| TOTALS | 453 | 9 | 204 | 222 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 12 | 9 |

Total Cases of Infectious Disease notified during previous years.

| | 1955 | 1954 | 1953 | 1952 | 1951 | 1950 | 1949 | 1948 | 1947 |
|----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Measles | 410 | 13 | 197 | 155 | 298 | 141 | 42 | 294 | 77 |
| Whooping Cough | 8 | 19 | 63 | 34 | 206 | 26 | 42 | 50 | 16 |
| Pneumonia | 12 | 4 | 21 | 13 | 19 | 15 | 9 | 19 | 12 |
| Scarlet Fever | 8 | 27 | 37 | 27 | 13 | 16 | 11 | 19 | 7 |
| Erysipelas | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic | 2 | — | — | 1 | — | 3 |) |) | — |
| Non-paralytic | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |) 6 |) 1 | — |
| Meningococcal Infection | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Dysentery | — | — | 1 | 1 | 5 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Typhoid Fever | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Paratyphoid Fever | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 8 | 9 | 13 | 9 | 8 | 13 | 9 | 9 | 3 |
| Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 4 | 8 | 2 |
| Food Poisoning | 2 | 1 | — | 8 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Diphtheria | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | 453 | 75 | 337 | 256 | 557 | 226 | 124 | 403 | 118 |

Distribution of cases of Infectious Disease.

| Area | Measles | Whooping Cough | Scarlet Fever | Erysipelas | Food Poisoning | Pneumonia | Pulmonary Tuberculosis | Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis | Acute Paralytic Poliomyelitis |
|--------------|---------|----------------|---------------|------------|----------------|-----------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Wilnecote | 181 | 2 | 3 | — | — | — | 4 | 1 | — |
| Glascote | 52 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | — |
| Austrey | 2 | 4 | 1 | — | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| Amington | 9 | 1 | — | — | — | 5 | 1 | — | — |
| Newton Regis | 5 | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| Kettlebrook | 9 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — |
| Kingsbury | 111 | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 2 |
| Hurley | 20 | — | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Middleton | 14 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Shuttington | 5 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Seckington | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | 410 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 8 | 2 | 2 |

Infectious Disease.

Compared with 1954 when only 75 cases were reported, the number rose to 453, the highest level since 1951 when 557 notifications were received.

Measles.

The increased incidence of this disease from 13 to 410 cases largely accounted for the general rise. As would be expected the majority of patients lived in the more densely populated areas, particularly in the Parishes of Wilnecote and Kingsbury, where 181 and 111 cases occurred. However, the disease continued to be of a mild nature with no fatalities and few complications requiring hospitalization.

Whooping Cough.

Notifications of this disease of infancy fell to 8, the lowest recorded figure since 1947. Fortunately, there were no deaths especially as this malady still accounts for a very large proportion of infant deaths—10 times that of poliomyelitis. Therefore, the increasing demand for protection against the complaint may well be satisfied by inoculation which gives good promise of earlier hopes being fulfilled. Requests for injections either against whooping cough or combined with diphtheria vaccine are becoming very popular and, indeed, the combined vaccine enables protection to be given against diphtheria thereby helping to dispel a serious waning interest on the part of parents of the dangers of failure to continue to take advantage of what has undoubtedly proved to be one of the greatest advances of this century in the fight against disease. Figures for inoculation against Whooping Cough were as follows:—

| Age at Date of Injection | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|------|-------|
| 0—1 | 1—2 | 2—5 | 5—15 | Total |
| 90 | 69 | 17 | 3 | 179 |

Scarlet Fever.

Only 8 cases were reported compared with 27 in 1954 which is the second lowest total since 1947. The disease continued to be of a mild nature, largely without complications.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

The “nil” return for 1953/4 was broken by the occurrence of 2 cases of the paralytic type. Nevertheless, both patients survived with no serious residual disabilities.

Tuberculosis.

At the close of the year 70 names remained on the Register during which 11 entries had been deleted and 14 added. Of the 14 cases added to the Register 4 were Inward Transfer from other areas. The new cases comprised 8 persons suffering from disease of the lungs and 2 from other forms of the malady. One male (over 65 years) and one female (over 55 years) died from the respiratory type. The situation is summarised as follows:—

Age and Sex Distribution of New Cases and Deaths notified during 1955.

| Age Periods | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|----------------|-----------|---|---------------|---|-----------|---|---------------|---|
| | Pulmonary | | Non-pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non-pulmonary | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 0 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 15 | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 25 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 35 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 45 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 55 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| 65 and upwards | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Totals | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — |

Total number of Tuberculous persons remaining on the Register at 31st December, 1955.

| | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | |
|---|-----------|----|---------------|---|
| | M | F | M | F |
| 1. Total on Register at 31st December, 1954 | 38 | 17 | 7 | 5 |
| 2. New Cases ... | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| 3. Inward Transfers ... | 3 | 1 | — | — |
| 4. Removals ... | 7 | 2 | 2 | — |
| 5. Total on Register at 31st December, 1955 | 38 | 20 | 6 | 6 |

Inasmuch as the majority of cases of the non-pulmonary type of the disease arise from the consumption of infected milk, the declaration of the District as a Designated Area wherein only milk from non-infected cattle may be retailed, marked a further step towards eradication of this type of tuberculosis chiefly manifested by inflammation of glands and bones. In fact, the disfigurement resulting from scarring of the neck following chronic suppuration of the glands in that region is now seldom seen.

The following Tables record the results of examination of milk supplies in the District carried out by the County Health Department from which it will be seen that out of 58 samples taken the three found infected with tubercle bacilli arose from non-designated milk. Good liaison is maintained not only with neighbouring Districts but also with the parent County body which in turn is closely linked with other counties.

Tuberculous Milk Investigations — Routine Milk Samples for Biological Examination during the year 1955.

| <i>Designation of Milk</i> | <i>Total No. of Samples</i> | <i>No. Positive</i> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Pasteurised | 3 | Nil |
| Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) | 2 | Nil |
| Tuberculin Tested | 9 | Nil |
| Non-designated | 44 | 3 |

Results of Investigations of Tubercle Infected Milk Supplies during the year 1955.

| <i>No. of</i> | <i>Cases found on routine sampling in the County</i> | <i>Cases reported by neighbouring County Authorities</i> |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Investigations ... | 3 | 3 |
| 2. Cows examined ... | 45 | 74 |
| 3. Milk Samples for diagnostic purposes | 15 | 28 |
| 4. Cows slaughtered under Tuberculosis Order ... | 2 | 3 |
| 5. Cows removed from herds during investi- gations and which may have been infected ... | — | — |

Food Poisoning.

Only two cases were reported, both occurring in adults. Scrupulous attention to personal hygiene is the first line of defence against infection.

Diphtheria.

Once again it is gratifying to report that no cases of this erstwhile scourge have been notified over the past 9 years. Nevertheless, this satisfactory state of affairs cannot continue unless immunisation of infants and young children is maintained at the highest possible level. Absence of a disease never witnessed by the present generation of children and most of their parents, has resulted in apathy to the need for taking advantage of this simple precaution. However, as previously mentioned, the popularity of the combined injection against whooping cough and diphtheria is proving a valuable means of obtaining the desired result. As will be seen from the table subpended, as in 1954, the response was very disappointing and cause for great concern that the exhortations of the Health Visitors and even the despatch of a Reminder Postcard on the infant's first birthday did not improve matters—only 38 per cent. of babies were protected during their first year of life and a further 30 per cent. immunised between the ages of one and two years out of 263 children who lived to the age of 1 year.

Total number of Immunisations against Diphtheria during 1955.

| | Under 1 year | 1—2 years | 2—3 years | 3—4 years | 4—5 years | 5—9 years | 9—15 years | Total |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------|
| Primary | 102 | 61 | 15 | 11 | 12 | 35 | 1 | 237 |
| Reinforcing | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 92 | 110 | 204 |
| Total | 102 | 61 | 16 | 11 | 13 | 127 | 111 | 441 |

Smallpox.

The recurrence of this killing disease in England in recent years serves as a reminder of the benefits of vaccination in infancy and a total of 57 primary vaccinations and 13 re-vaccinations in the District is disappointing. Another advantage of this simple precaution accrues to those adult members of the community enrolling or called-up for National Service in respect of whom, if previously vaccinated, there is little or no reaction when inoculated in accordance with routine procedure. Details of vaccinations are as follows:—

Total number of Vaccinations during 1955.

| | Under 1 year | 1 year | 2—4 years | 5—15 years | 15 or over | Totals |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------|
| Vaccinated | 45 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 57 |
| Revaccinated | — | — | — | — | 13 | 13 |
| Totals | 45 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 70 |

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1955.

The year was again one of progress, the Northern Area and Kingsbury Deep Sewerage Schemes were commenced, a good rate of building was maintained, the survey of the older type houses was completed and a comprehensive report presented, a survey was made of all properties affected by the Northern Area Scheme and a report on the cost of connecting existing drains to the new sewer and the conversion of non-water closets to water closets presented to the Council, and 100 per cent. meat inspection maintained.

This work would not have been possible but for the conscientious work of your Additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Fry, but it is still to be regretted that technical officers also have to act as Clerk/Typists in the preparation of these and other reports as it seriously curtailed outside duties which with the advent of the new Food Hygiene Regulations, the Clean Air legislation and the conversion of nearly two hundred closets to water closets on the completion of the Northern Area Scheme, needs to be increased rather than decreased.

I am again indebted to Mr. A. Shaw, M.I.Mun.E., the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, for information and data as regards new housing, sewerage and refuse collection and the respective water undertakings for information regarding new connections.

GARNET J. WATTS,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

Water continues to be supplied to the district by the following authorities:—

1. Tamworth Waterworks Joint Committee.
2. The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.
3. The City of Birmingham Water Department.

During the year the quality of water supplied to the public continued to be satisfactory and there was no evidence of plumbo-solvency.

All mains water is chlorinated and regularly sampled either by the respective authorities or the Health Department of the Council.

During the year 24 samples were taken by the Health Department from all sources. Of these, 5 were from the mains (satisfactory), one from a spring (satisfactory), 5 from a shallow well fitted with a chlorinator (satisfactory) and twelve from other shallow wells all of which were polluted. Of these, four were used for farm purposes only, a closing order was obtained in respect of one, one was connected to the mains, and notices served in respect of 5 others requiring owners to supply a piped supply from the mains.

The following table gives the estimated total of inhabited premises supplied by mains water.

ESTIMATED PARTICULARS OF MAINS WATER CONNECTIONS—Domestic

| Parish | Domestic Buildings | Domestic Buildings Served | % Served | Supplying Authority |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------|---------------------|
| Amington ... | 469 | 465 | 99.15 | Tamworth Joint |
| Austrey ... | 116 | 102 | 87.92 | South Staffs. |
| Bolehall & Glascote | 756 | 744 | 98.42 | Tamworth Joint |
| Kingsbury: Dosthill ... | 312))) | 293))) | | Tamworth Joint |
| Wood End ... | 286))) |))) | | City of Birmingham |
| Kingsbury ... | 642) 1,418)) | 1,730) 1,416)) | 98.77 | " " |
| Hurley ... | 490))) |))) | | " " |
| Middleton ... | 192 | 181 | 94.28 | South Staffs. |
| Newton Regis ... | 144 | 144 | 100.0 | South Staffs. |
| Seckington ... | 21 | 19 | 90.48 | South Staffs. |
| Shuttington ... | 153 | 150 | 98.04 | Tamworth Joint |
| Wilnecote & Castle Liberty ... | 1,795 | 1,792 | 99.84 | Tamworth Joint |
| Totals ... | 5,376 | 5,306 | 98.70 | |

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year work continued on the Northern Area Sewage Disposal Scheme and it is hoped that it will be completed during the first half of 1956. In connection with the scheme the Health Department carried out a complete house to house survey of the districts served by the scheme and a report was presented on the work entailed and estimated cost of connecting all properties to the new system and the conversion of non-water closets to water closets.

The Dosthill extension was completed during the year and work began on the Kingsbury Deep Scheme.

The Hurley Scheme is still delayed due to lack of agreement with the Trent River Board and a Public Enquiry is awaited.

During the year 14 water closets were installed to replace non-water closets, one septic tank installed and by agreement with the Borough of Tamworth one property was drained to their sewers, thus doing away with a troublesome cesspool.

The work of conversion, it is expected, will greatly increase in 1956 with the expected completion of the Northern Area Scheme which will also abate many nuisances now existing in many of the ditches in the area.

Existing Sewerage Services.

AUSTREY.

Small sewage works at Warton Lane which receives waste from most of the village.

Septic Tank at Cinder Lane which receives waste from the top end of the village.

NEWTON REGIS.

Settling Tank with overflow to field ditch which receives waste from part of the hamlet of Nomans Heath.

Small sewage works at Newton Regis which serves the Council's Housing Estate with overflow to nearby pond.

SHUTTINGTON.

Waste water drained only to sewage field with irrigation channels.

Alvecote—waste water drain to dilapidated settling tank with overflow to ponds.

All the above parishes and districts, with the exception of Alvecote, will be served by the Northern Area Scheme.

A separate scheme has been formulated for dealing with Alvecote in which the National Coal Board are expected to assist.

AMINGTON.

With the exception of a few houses Amington is fully sewered draining into the Amington Sewage Works. Work of reconstructing the filter beds has been proceeding during the year the work being done by the Council's workmen.

GLASCOTE.

Glascote is fully sewered, draining into the sewers of the Tamworth Joint Sewage District Committee.

WILNECOTE.

Kettlebrook, Belgrave, Two Gates and Wilnecote except parts of Hockley are drained to the Tamworth Joint Sewage District Committee's sewer, the remaining part to Dosthill Sewage Works.

DOSTHILL.

Drained to Dosthill Sewage Works with a pumping station at the lower end of the village.

KINGSBURY.

Drained to Cliffe Sewage Works with a pumping station at Coventry Road to pump sewage from the lower end into the gravity sewers. Work is in progress on extending these works.

WOOD END.

Drained to overloaded small sewage disposal works.

HURLEY.

Bottom end of the village is drained to Rockingham Sewage Works and the top end including Dexter Colliery to the Old Rail Farm Sewage Works.

MIDDLETON.

New Sewage Disposal Works in operation but to date not all the properties are connected to the sewers.

New Sewage Disposal Works in operation at Bassetts Pole and all properties connected.

Verminous Premises.

During the year 2 only small infestations by bugs were found and treated, one in a Council house and one in a private house.

Treatment for the extermination of cockroaches was carried out in six houses and powder issued to other householders for treating their own premises.

Infectious Disease.

The incidence of infectious disease still remained low with the result that few visits were made, these being confined to enquiries concerning Scarlet Fever and three suspected cases of food poisoning. The food poisoning cases concerned one person in each case and the causal agent was not found.

Arrangements for the fumigation of bedding after the death or removal of T.B. patients was also made.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The system of collecting refuse by direct labour under the control of the Council's Engineer and Surveyor continued to give a more or less regular collection. The bonus scheme introduced the previous year certainly helped with the result that apart from times when the staff was depleted due to illness a weekly collection was maintained.

The hotter summer did give rise to infestations of crickets on the tips but these were controlled by spraying and consolidation by the use of the Chaseside Shovel. Infestations by rats continued to be within controllable limits.

Rodent Control—Report for year ending 31/3/56.

The rodent operative continues to give very satisfactory service and the provision of a van for use in this work has meant a widening of the inspections carried out in particular as regards farms.

Due to his conscientious attention to duty very few major infestations were found and his co-operation with the public continued to be of the highest order.

Particulars from the return to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and details of sewer treatments, etc., are as follows:—

1. Ministry Return.

Number of properties in the district:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Local Authority | ... | ... | 18 |
| Houses | ... | ... | 5,056 |
| Agriculture | ... | ... | 173 |
| Business | ... | ... | 289 |
| | | — | 5,536 |

Number of properties inspected:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|---------|
| Local Authority | ... | ... | 14 |
| Houses | ... | ... | 915 |
| Agriculture | ... | ... | 53 |
| Business | ... | ... | 21 |
| | | | — 1,003 |

Number of properties found infested and treated:

(a) Rats; (b) Mice:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|---------|-------|
| Local Authority | ... | (a) 9 | (b) 0 |
| Houses | ... | (a) 546 | (b) 7 |
| Agriculture | ... | (a) 12 | (b) 0 |
| Business | ... | (a) 9 | (b) 2 |
| | | — | 585 |

Number of inspections—re-inspections included:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|---------|
| Local Authority | ... | ... | 68 |
| Houses | ... | ... | 1,709 |
| Agriculture | ... | ... | 103 |
| Business | ... | ... | 65 |
| | | | — 1,945 |

2. Number of baiting points and bodies picked up on:—

| | <i>Points</i> | <i>Bodies</i> |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Local Authority Tips | 194 | 252 |
| „ „ Sewage Works | 152 | 128 |
| Farms | 127 | 139 |
| Business Premises | 200 | 87 |
| Surface Treatments | 2,386 | 827 |
| | — 3,059 | — 1,433 |

3. The sewer treatments carried out in June and December showed:—

| | June | Dec. | Total |
|--------------------------------|------|------|-------|
| No. of manholes baited | 246 | 229 | 475 |
| „ „ „ showing no takes of bait | 120 | 133 | 253 |
| „ „ „ „ partial takes of bait | 95 | 109 | 204 |
| „ „ „ „ complete takes of bait | 31 | 24 | 55 |

No notices were served during the year and the co-operation of the public with your operative continued to be of the highest order thus ensuring efficient working of this vital public service.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

| Premises | No. on Register | Inspections | Written Notices | Prosecutions |
|---|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
| (i) Factories in which Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authorities | 14 | 4 | — | — |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authorities | 41 | 20 | — | — |
| (iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (excluding outworkers premises) | 11 | — | — | — |
| Totals | 66 | 24 | — | — |

Cases in which defects were found

| Particulars | No. of cases in which defects were found | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|----------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred | | Prosecutions |
| | | | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector | |
| Want of Cleanliness | — | — | — | — | — |
| Overcrowding | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unreasonable temperature | — | — | — | — | — |
| Inadequate ventilation | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ineffective drainage of floors | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sanitary Conveniences: | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | 2 | 2 | — | 2 | — |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other offences | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | 3 | 3 | — | 3 | — |

Canal Boats.

Visits have been made to the various docks and wharves for the purpose of examining canal boats but at the time of visit no boats were found.

There were no changes in the register which still shows 147 boats as registered at Tamworth.

Atmospheric Pollution.

The absence of atmospheric pollution gauges prevents an overall picture of conditions in the area being given.

During the year burning spoil banks continued to be a source of trouble but the National Coal Board continued their co-operation by the use of bulldozers and spraying to try to minimise the nuisance as far as practicable.

Another large works are exploring means to reduce pollution from boilers either by new plant or change over to oil, gas or electricity.

One unique problem arose from a wet milling process in an alloy foundry but again the firm concerned are doing all they can to minimise cause for complaint.

As to whether the Clean Air Bill when it becomes an Act will greatly increase work in this field remains to be seen but I think it fair to say that the public are becoming more clean air minded but still fail to realise that much air pollution is due to the domestic chimney.

HOUSING.

During the year 240 new houses were completed, 182 by the Local Authority, 58 by private enterprise and 2 flats by the Coal Industry Housing Association. At the end of the year 52 were under construction for the Local Authority and 76 by private enterprise.

Five cases were reported to the Health Committee as in need of sympathetic consideration for re-housing on the grounds of overcrowding, etc. Of these and cases previously reported 15 were re-housed. All cases were referred to the appropriate Housing Committee for consideration.

The number of applicants on the Council's Housing list at the end of the year was 456 compared with the total of 469 at the end of the previous year.

During the year 2 slum clearance orders were made and confirmed by the Ministry, demolition orders were made in respect of 7 houses, 1 house was the subject of a closing order, undertakings accepted in respect of the future use of 6 houses, two houses were converted into one through house and one house placed in the slum clearance class was extensively repaired.

Certificates of Disrepair were issued in respect of 31 properties and of those 20 revocation certificates had been granted by the end of the year.

The survey of the poorer type properties in the district was completed and a comprehensive report issued to and accepted by the Council, which showed 77 houses in such a condition as to warrant action with a view to demolishing them. The return required under the Act was submitted to the Ministry and accepted.

The use of the provision of grants for modernising property by the installation of bathroom, etc., remains popular and during the year the Council approved 28 applications involving grants totalling £3,218.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

During the year the condition of the 7 dairies continued to be satisfactory.

Enquiries were made at 5 farms following reports of T.B. positive milk samples taken by various sampling officers, either at the farm, on the round or at dairies to which the milk was sent.

According to notifications received from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries 2 new T.T. producer licences were issued during the year.

Milk Licences.

The number of licences in force at the end of the year were:—

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Dealers (sterilised) | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Dealers (pasteurised) | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Dealers (T.T.) | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| | | | | <hr/> |
| | | | | 23 |
| | | | | <hr/> |

During the year the area became a Designated Area so that only designated milk is now sold in the district.

Meat Inspection.

During the year 3 slaughterhouses only were in use. 100 per cent. inspection was maintained and the following tables show the numbers killed and the amounts found unfit.

| | Cattle excluding Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep | Pigs |
|--|-----------------------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| Number killed | 851 | 59 | 29 | 2,471 | 2,162 |
| Number inspected | 851 | 59 | 29 | 2,471 | 2,162 |
| All diseases except T.B. and Cysticercus Bovis | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | 1 | — | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 160 | 6 | — | 1 | 19 |
| % of number in- spected affected with disease other than T.B. or cysticercus bovis | 18.9 | 10.16 | 6.89 | 0.16 | 0.97 |
| Tuberculosis only | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 74 | 14 | — | — | 55 |
| % affected with T.B. | 8.81 | 25.42 | — | — | 2.54 |
| Cysticercus bovis | | | | | |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Submitted to refrigeration | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Generalised and totally condemned | — | — | — | — | — |

Diseased Meat and Offals.

All diseases except T.B.

| | | | Tons | Cwts. | Qrs. | lbs. |
|--------|---------|----------|------|-------|------|------|
| Cattle | Carcase | Meat ... | | 8 | 2 | 24 |
| | Offals | ... | | 19 | 3 | 21 |
| Calves | Carcase | Meat ... | | — | 1 | 24 |
| | Offals | ... | | — | — | 9 |
| Sheep | Carcase | Meat ... | | 1 | 0 | 16 |
| | Offals | ... | | — | 1 | 4 |
| Pigs | Carcase | Meat ... | | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| | Offals | ... | | 1 | 2 | 0 |

Tuberculosis only.

| | | | | | | |
|--------|---------|----------|---|----|---|----|
| Cattle | Carcase | Meat ... | | 12 | 0 | 18 |
| | Offals | ... | | 19 | 3 | 24 |
| Calves | | ... | | — | — | — |
| Sheep | | ... | | — | — | — |
| Pigs | Carcase | Meat ... | | — | — | — |
| | Offals | ... | | 6 | 3 | 10 |
| Total | | | 3 | 15 | 0 | 10 |

Casualty slaughter accounted for nearly one-third by weight of carcase meat condemned.

Other Foods—Condemned.

- 2 x 6lb. Corned Beef.
- 14lbs. Bread.
- 3lbs. Cake.
- 42lbs. Flour.
- 27 pks. Biscuits.
- 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Loose Biscuits.
- 1 tin Chocolate Tea Cakes.
- 41 Wrapped Chocolate Biscuits.
- 17 Fruit Pies.
- 49 Boxes Cereals.
- 27lbs. Currants.
- 2 Boxes Mixed Sweets.
- 44lbs. Wrapped Sweets.
- 24lbs. Dried Peas.
- 32 Packets Condiments.
- 4lbs. Margarine.
- 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Bacon.
- 1lb. Butter.
- $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Cheese.

The majority of the above foods were damaged or tainted as a result of a fire in a small grocery shop.

Licences.

The number of premises licensed under the Food and Drugs Act is:—

- 45 premises for the storage and sale of ice-cream.
- 3 premises for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream (only one operated for the manufacture of ice-cream during the year).
- 10 premises for the preparation and manufacture of sausages and potted meat, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale, including the preparation of meat or fish by any process of cooking.

Ice-Cream.

Results of samples taken:—

| | Grade: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Total |
|--------------------------|--------|---|---|---|---|-------|
| Manufactured in district | ... | 2 | 2 | 2 | — | 6 |
| .. outside .. | ... | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| | | 4 | 2 | 2 | — | 8 |

Investigations at first into the lowering standard of ice-cream manufactured in the district failed to find the cause but a change in methods of sterilising machinery and equipment resulted in the required improvement.

All vehicles inspected were found to be satisfactory.

Shops.

The majority of the shops in the district are the small type general stores and usually run by the family. A good standard of cleanliness was maintained in all food shops including the seven butchers' shops complete with their cold storage arrangements.

The carrying into operation of the Food Hygiene Regulations means that in 1956 there should be an increase in shop inspections, but it is doubtful owing to other duties if the necessary time will be available for this purpose.

Food Guilds.

There are no Food Guilds in operation in the district, the rural nature of which make an organisation of this kind difficult to plan.

WORK DONE AT PREMISES DURING THE YEAR 1955.

Housing.

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Roof repaired or renewed | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| Chimney stack repaired or renewed | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Gutters repaired or renewed | ... | ... | ... | 30 |
| Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| External walls repaired or re-pointed | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Dampness abated | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Wall plaster repaired | ... | ... | ... | 45 |
| Ceiling plaster repaired | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| Windows repaired or renewed | ... | ... | ... | 78 |
| Doors repaired or renewed | ... | ... | ... | 44 |
| Floors repaired or renewed | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| Stairs repaired or renewed | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Firegrates repaired or renewed | ... | ... | ... | 18 |
| New sinks provided | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Separate water supply provided | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Food stores provided or repaired | ... | ... | ... | 3 |

Sanitary Conveniences.

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|----|
| New water closets provided complete | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| New water closet basins provided | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Water closet cisterns repaired or renewed | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Water closet compartment repaired | ... | ... | ... | 6 |

Drainage.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Drains cleansed and unblocked | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| Drains repaired or re-constructed | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| Premises drained to sewer | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Inspection chambers provided | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| New gullies provided | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Septic tank provided | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Miscellaneous nuisances abated | ... | ... | ... | 29 |

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Tent, etc., removed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|

VISITS.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Water Supplies | ... | ... | ... | ... | 49 |
| Drainage | ... | ... | ... | ... | 494 |
| Piggeries | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Moveable Dwellings | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Factories | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24 |
| Licensed Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Refuse | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| Atmospheric Pollution | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Rodent Control | ... | ... | ... | ... | 57 |
| Petroleum Acts | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Knackers Yards | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Housing | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,057 |
| Infectious Disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
| Food Poisoning | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Meat Inspection | ... | ... | ... | ... | 650 |
| Dairies, etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| Food Preparation Premises and Shops | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Ice-Cream | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34 |
| T.B. Milk | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Canal Boats | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Bakehouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 |

